

JAN 08 2015

It is difficult to comment on an outline to a plan. There are no details to indicate who the partners are, where the grant money will be coming from, what obligations are attached to the grant money or if there are top-down directives coming from outside the county to implement and sustain the plan.

The people of Saguache County were not asked if we wanted this plan. Few people even knew there was a plan being formed. This lack of inclusion and lack of transparency fosters nothing but distrust and resentment toward the planners. For this reason the plan was ill-conceived.

You don't bring people together by going outside the county to formulate a plan and then try to impose policy on them without their knowledge and in some cases against their will. Transparency is not defined by concealing the implementation structure. Everything must be out in the open or there is no trust, and where there is no trust there is no unity.

Relying on government grants and taxpayer funded programs to create jobs and develop the economy is a recipe for failure, because it ignores the fact that private commerce drives the economy and always has. The failed concept of redistribution has been proven repeatedly to be unsustainable, and because it can't sustain itself it always results in a drain on taxpayers and lowers the overall standard of living. County government has no business trying to develop the economy by usurping the role of private commerce and industry as the mechanism to establish economic stability.

If you want to regain the trust of the people you should sever your connections to DOLA and Managing for Results LLC concerning this plan and start fresh. This time include the business community, the planning commission and any Saguache County citizen who desires input. We don't need outside interference to address our economic challenges.

Mike Cowan / Saguache

655-6202





Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Fwd: Strategic Plan

Linda Joseph <ljoseph@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 4:10 PM

To: "administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov" <administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thomas D McCracken" <tom@greeneearthfarm.com>**Subject:** Strategic Plan**Date:** December 19, 2014 1:08:27 PM MST**To:** "Tim Lovato" <timnlovato@yahoo.com>, <janderson@saguachecounty-co.gov>, <ljoseph@saguachecounty-co.gov>, <kanderson@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Note, When I sent this to the email address link for the administrator on your website, the email bounced undeliverable. Hard to comment if you can't use the link provided...

Dear Commissioners and Administrators:

As a business and land owner in Saguache County for the past 35 years I would like to comment on the proposed "strategic plan". I appreciate that the county wishes to promote economic growth in the county and hope that principles of sustainability, environmental protection and quality of life will guide any actions taken.

Generally it is accepted theory that any money spent in the community could be recycled through the community up to 10 times, benefitting local service providers and businesses. This leads me to ask if the developers of this plan and the recipients of grant money are residents of the county, i.e. the Weidner's and also the administrators of SCSEED? I also see no mention of SCSEED in the plan and wonder if input from all the meetings they have had with the public concerning economic development issues have been integrated into the plan?

1) Tourism - The most obvious asset we have here, the Great Outdoors, should be promoted. Any work the county can do or support to promote tourism is a good thing, provided the goal is not to be the ATV capitol of Colorado for example which would impact quality of life for existing residents. Marketing our clean air, water and wildlife will benefit everyone. I really don't like to read about "leveraging existing connections", and "building local collaboratives". This means nothing to me and mainly sounds like grant writers hot air. The plan should have specifics in it, not just an outline of lofty idealistic goals. Signage can be a good thing and the Forest Service and BLM have done a nice job of directing folks to trailheads etc. Signage can also be an eyesore if not done properly. Mainly the areas to be promoted need to be developed to accept larger numbers of tourists with restroom facilities, parking, road and trail maintenance, grooming, etc. If people have a positive experience, they will tell others and that marketing is free. Winter tourism is sadly lacking and there is huge room for development in that category. Local businesses always seem to suffer in winter so anything that could be done there such as the development of separate cross country and snow mobile trails, (which nearly all surrounding counties have) would be huge.

2) R & D - Developing County owned land might be a good idea. Creating a business park near an airport sounds good on the surface. It might be a better idea to offer an interested business a tax incentive and a low cost development option based on a long term contract so that the county is not making expenditures that could be all for nothing. As I recall back in the day the Baca POA wanted to or did create a business park opportunity that has gone unused. A state of the art landfill and recycling center would be a good start toward attracting business. Of course we already had that and could not sustain it. Perhaps we should try to keep up the facilities we already have before we go out on a limb with new development. The biggest obstacle we have to attracting business is the lack of a workforce. The education suggestion in the plan is the most realistic in terms of actually attracting entrepreneurs. In fact the most likely way to increase economic activity here is to educate the local population, youngsters in particular in areas that specifically relate to local existing businesses such as agriculture and tourism. Keeping kids with potential here should be a priority. The current way schools are operating seem more to me like a day care facility than a way to integrate kids into the agricultural way of life. The average age of a farmer is now 57 years old so there will definitely be opportunities available in the near future. Work study programs might be a viable, low cost option. Purchasing a farm or ranch, along with the needed equipment in this day and age is nearly impossible, so new ideas about ways to keep locals on the land are needed. Otherwise stand by while large agribusinesses scoop up the land that goes on the market. Protecting our water resources will be absolutely critical. If the aquifer goes dry or our water gets exported to the front range, you can forget about long term economic growth. Processing of ag products we already do or could produce represent a realistic opportunity. If the land grant universities would redirect their activities toward sustainability on a local level, perhaps we could create

Businesses around processing local product. For instance, could the county ask for or help subsidize research into creating a high protein animal feed from local grains and legumes that could replace imported GMO and chemical intensive feed, supporting the burgeoning businesses in chicken and egg production, and perhaps even swine? What about local meat processing? Could subsidizing compliance with the endless USDA food safety requirements lead to a local slaughterhouse and packing facility that would create jobs in the short run and perhaps spawn businesses that capitalized in marketing our locally raised meat products. I don't know about you but drones just don't seem to fit in and I do not want drones hovering overhead. Have the "improvements" at Leach Field lead to increased activity there? If I lived near there I would be very upset about the spinning lights at night.

3) Alternative Energy – Yes we should support solar energy to the extent it would not harm the environment or upset our existing quality of life. Wind should also be looked at. The land that will be supposedly idled to sustain the aquifer could be used for this purpose. My question is, what happened to the solar garden project? That seemed like a good project that would have reduced our communities reliance on imported energy, but it just seemed to die a quite death. If we can't keep a project like that alive, I don't think we should be thinking on some much grander scale.

We already have organizations or people dedicated to planning and economic development as well as land use and administration. My take is that we should require more from the existing organizations and individuals tasked with these duties that are paid for with taxpayer funds. Competition for county jobs might lead to increased productivity. Additionally the county should cease funding any operation that competes with existing businesses. Grant funded operations typically go away as soon as the money dries up. Grant funding should be tailored in such a way as to involve entrepreneurs that have skin in the game so that when the grant is gone the business continues. The counties basic function is to maintain and improve the infrastructure. Roads, bridges, schools, public buildings, public safety, communication, parks, and sanitation, stay on top of those duties and you will be doing a better job than most. Then economic growth will follow naturally.

Sincerely,

Thomas D McCracken
Green Earth Farm
PO Box 612
Saguache, Co. 81149
[719-655-2655](tel:719-655-2655) hm

Thomas D McCracken
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[719-655-2655](tel:719-655-2655) hm
[303-550-3595](tel:303-550-3595) cell



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Linda Joseph
Saguache County Commissioner, Chair
ljoseph@saguachecounty-co.gov
719 588-7828



April Quintana <aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

message

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>
Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov
To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

Fri, Jan 9, 2015 at 3:50 PM

Tom McCracken has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: Tom McCracken

Email*: tom@greeneearthfarm.com

Comments: The meeting scheduled for 4 hours was cut short to two hours and some of us with questions were not able to ask them. I had a couple...

1) SCSEED has been conducting public meetings asking for citizen input on economic development. Have those results been reported to the Commissioners?

2) What are the top 5 or 10 ideas people have for development? Have those ideas been incorporated into the Strategic Plan?

3) Why was the Planning Commission not tasked with developing the Strategic Plan, and why were they not privy to it's development by outsiders?

I agree with Jason that a goal is a good thing to have, but the tools you have at your discretion seem not to have been utilized.

Comments submitted to you in writing and on line should be available for viewing by the public, other wise we have not means to know what other residents are thinking. Thanks

Submitted 2015-01-09 15:50:13

On:

IP 199.47.67.59

Address:

January 5, 2015



Saguache County Administration
P.O. Box 100
Saguache, CO 81149

Dear County Commissioners:

After reading the Strategic Plan, I found myself having more questions than answers. The plan is so general, one does not know what is going to happen. When one writes a plan, one has a specific objective that one wishes to accomplish with specific points to reach that objective revealing the cost. The Strategic Plan does not do this.

If the County Commissioners *really* want to improve Saguache County, it would be fitting for them to talk to the residents of this county to find out their needs and wants either through a survey or meetings allowing residents to voice their concerns. After doing so, the County Commissioners, not an outside entity, puts the residents' suggestions in an appropriate order. It is then presented to the residents of Saguache County to get their input. After that, the County Commissioners come to a conclusion and begin to specifically reveal how they will reach the goal or goals and the cost, which is shown to the residents of Saguache County. Again, the County Commissioners get the residents input, before putting anything into action.

It appears that this plan has not been transparent, which leaves people suspicious of what the County Commissioners' agenda really is. It is a shame for everyone that it has come to this.

I know you have put thought and time into this plan, but it is not about what the Commissioners want. It is about *all* the residents of Saguache County and what we want you to do for our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dottie Eichhorn".

Dottie Eichhorn

Comments on the Saguache County DRAFT Strategic Plan

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT?

The first question is why a Strategic Plan? And why now? What is the purpose of the Strategic Plan? This question becomes more important when considering paragraph two of the letter from the commissioners on page 3. This part of the plan appears to be directed at requirements of a DOLA grant.

Strategies are generally used to determine methods for accomplishing major policy goals. If the county needs a strategic plan to make all or part of the County Master Plan or some new vision of the BOCC become a reality to meet the challenges discussed in the commissioners' letter, wouldn't it make sense to go to the Planning Commission and/or the citizens and business groups rather than paid "approved" consultants? Unless as seems most likely this Strategic Plan is a first step in acquiring other DOLA grants.

So what is it that the commissioners are trying to accomplish? Could it be more than to get grant money for an implementation project hinted at in the DRAFT plan? The plan should provide an answer that question. There are some hints but unfortunately the plan doesn't set out the purpose fully and clearly. Why not put all the cards on the table so we can decide together (BOCC and the citizens of Saguache County) if this is what we want and are willing to support. Whatever road we are heading down, the grant road or some other, let's be open and honest about it.

THE DOCUMENT - NOT REALLY A PLAN

This document is not really a plan just a set of numbered bullet points. Here's what I see: The document has ten pages. Only four pages set out strategies for Saguache County. The other six pages are document fillers and extraneous matters. The plan has the following pages: a cover page (#1), a table of contents page (#2), a letter from the commissioners page (#3), an announcement of the meeting page (#4), an implementation overview page (#9) and, a second credits page (#10). Pages #5 and #8 have 1/3 of a page stating a strategic goal and 2/3 of each page is timelines related somehow to a strategic goal. Pages #6 and #7 set out points that are the actual strategic plan.

Pages #6 and #7 present groups of numbered bullet points. It looks and reads like an outline of a plan. It is seriously lacking in comprehensible detail. At best, the lists on pages #6 and #7 hint at what the County's plan for the years 2015 to 2020 will be. This is really important stuff for all of us.

Side note: Hopefully, this draft document does not represent an entire year's work by the BOCC. And hopefully it is not the only work product we get for the \$30K in consulting fees which were paid for half by county taxpayers and half by state taxpayers through DOLA.

CLARITY

The commissioners ask, "Is it clear and understandable?" With no real substance the plan offers only the foggiest indications of what is actually being planned. NO, it is neither clear nor understandable. Citizens of Saguache County, who should be the beneficiaries as well as the financers of the strategic plan, have no clearer idea of the direction the BOCC wants to take Saguache County with this plan than they had with no plan. Hopefully, the commissioners, who have had a year to study lots of things in putting this set of bullet points together, really do understand what their plan is. If so, why not clearly share that vision with those of us who will live it and pay for it. Perhaps that will happen at the comment meeting.

These are some of the questions that need to be answered: WHAT is BOCC's vision for Saguache County? What will be changed? What will be added? What are the priorities? How will it all be paid for? This document offers precious little insight on these important topics. There are hints but nothing is clarified. For instance, what are the "current connections" mentioned in item (I)(1) on page #6? What sort of "collaboratives" do the commissioners think local tourism businesses need to serve visitors? See, (I)(2)(page #6). Do the items in section (II) (1-6) of page #6 called R&D hint at the rumored drone company? Is there something new in the concept of "telling the story" of Saguache County or is a new document with our history being contemplated? What are "pivotal locations" mentioned in page #6 (I)(4) – mines, mountains, ranches, towns? And what strategy is focused on them?

Items (I)(4) and (5) on page #6, that set out improved signage and event marketing, have genuine promise. Can the county help businesses take on CDOT. Signage laws are overly restrictive and allow only signage that is ineffective in the extreme. Marketing is a continual problem. It is expensive and the results are hard to judge.

On most other topics, this documents leaves too many questions unanswered. More time to revise more consultation with local groups and more time to come back to the public is needed.

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

The Alternative Energy section of the Economic Growth Priority (Part II on page #6) is sketchy but seems unimaginative and incomplete. The ideas in it appear to be recycled old ideas which, so far, seem to be going forward very slowly or more likely going nowhere. Maybe a strategic Plan is not the place to take on Xcel Energy, the obstructionist energy monopoly holding much of Saguache County hostage. But it would be nice to hear that trimming the Xcel grip on residents and businesses is being considered. How about a little push back?

Are the Commissioners aware that innovative and energy efficient products and concepts are being developed by residents here in Saguache? Wouldn't it make sense to include development of those assets in a strategic plan?

Energy conservation and reduction of carbon based mega-suppliers of energy is part of the national debate. It is possible that Saguache County can play a positive role in that debate. However, nothing in the draft plan seems to point to a brilliant or innovative concept with promise. This part of the plan if implemented as written is not likely to produce much positive change nor will it result in a benefit to residents. This part of the plan needs a lot more work.

THE R & D FACILITY

Here are the questions about that idea: What does the county think an R&D facility might do for the county. We've heard something about the prospective drone company, is there more than one R&D group interested in our "airports" and "abundant open land" or just one? What zoning and land use changes are being contemplated to accommodate this prospective project? How is Saguache County "invested" in R&D? If we are not currently "invested", what is the plan to get us to a competitive position? Again we have only hints about what the actual plan is to please this company.

If a county financed and owned facility is contemplated, more than occasional use for the testing of drones would be needed to justify county investment or even a grant-based project. Although companies often want secrecy, taxpayers deserve transparency. Will you tell us what you know?

MOTO AND LOGO

Two things that won't help pan-county harmony are a county logo/brand and the motto "One County, One Community" (page #8). There are places in the world where a trademark or logo based on place identity works well – examples would be Provence in France or Napa and Silicon Valleys in California. But in each case, one or more very famous product has made the place name famous enough to create the brand type identity. When that happens, other products and services from the same place benefit from the branding created by the place name. The strategy of this plan seeks to reverse that process. Which Saguache County products are famous enough to bring brand identity to other products, places or activities in this county?

As to "One County, One Community," motto, it is a high sounding slogan but it won't bridge the very real differences that exist here. Trying to press this motto on this community as a working strategy is ill-advised. Saguache County towns and communities prize their distinct identities. Resistance to this effort is predictable.

Woven into the points offered about "One County, One Community," seems to be the suggestion that county employee responses to citizens varies by place affiliation. To have county employees serve all county citizens without distinction should always happen. If there are

problems in the county offices with differential reactions based on community origin, they need to be addressed. Will this motto be enough to cure whatever problems exists?

The diversity of this county is one of its strongest features. The uniqueness of each town should be seen as a strength of Saguache County not something that needs a fix. Neither lovely mottos nor kumbayah fests will bring east and west, and north and south parts of this county together. Our communities have very different issues, values and priorities. Struggle between opposing views, needs and priorities is the essence of politics. In a democracy it is not a weakness; it is a strength. A “One County, One Community” reality is not what Saguache County needs or wants. Unwelcome efforts to bring disparate communities and groups together, when they are separated by both distance and cultural chasms, could create more friction rather than lessen tensions. A better approach might be to foster a climate of mutual tolerance coupled with acceptance of a pragmatic approach that encourages compromise, cooperation and trade-offs in regard to county governance issues and project funding.

Finally, county business being conducted outside the county seat could be problematic. If work sessions are to be scheduled in communities across the county, care needs to be taken to get notice out to all parts of the county well ahead of time as to meeting places and times.

TIMING OF THE PLAN

If this plan has been in the works for a year and under contemplation for five years, as indicated by the commissioners’ letter, why haven’t interested local individuals, affected business and civic groups been brought into the process earlier?

Parts of the plan are already being implemented (i.e. the decision to hire a county manager and scheduling “work sessions” at various locations) How does implementation prior to adoption square with proper legislative procedure?

This plan was put out to the community as a completed working draft ready for adoption in mid-December. The window for public comment spanned the busiest holiday season of the year. In addition, the comment period ends just one day before the public comment meeting. One day is not sufficient time to digest and give serious contemplation to whatever comments, objections and ideas the public may offer. Will the comment meeting be *pro forma* or is real dialogue possible? Are the originators of the plan committed to coming to the meeting or not? Will the “consultants” be there? Will citizens who come and who speak be shouting down an abandoned mine shaft or discussing ideas with their county representatives?

OTHER IDEAS

Many of us have spent time and energy researching, working on and discussing ideas about economic growth. There are good initiatives out here. As a county we could do a much better job of supporting existing businesses and pressure state legislators to remove commerce stifling

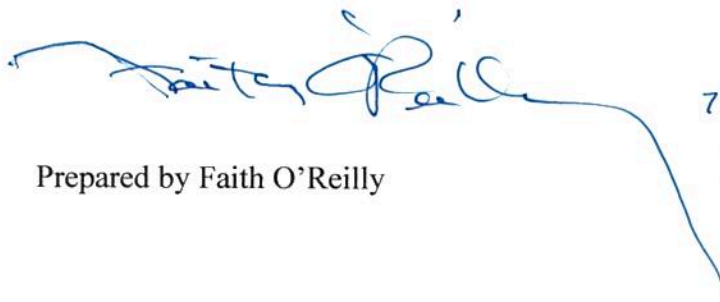
regulations. Finally smart counties like Colby County KS use property tax laws to encourage both individual property owners and businesses to upgrade facilities and expand.

Basic Requests:

- 1. Slow this process down.**
- 2. Strive for complete transparency in every phase of strategic plan development.**
- 3. Try to see the meeting on the 9th or 10th as a chance for dialogue or at least be open to answering questions.**
- 4. And schedule another meeting or even several more.**
- 5. Extend the comment period and provide a question time.**
- 6. Seek out public input and ideas.**
- 7. Create time for revisions of the draft.**
- 8. Invite business groups, affected property owners and the general public to have real input in creating the plan that will shape our future.**
- 9. Get public buy-in before approaching DOLA or any other grant funders or lenders if expensive projects are being contemplated.**
- 10. Carefully research unintended consequences experienced by other counties (including Gunnison) and local governments that have undertaken similar projects i.e. cost overruns, maintenance expenses associated with planned projects and taxpayer revolts.**

The process involved in creating a strategic plan can deepen divisions and raise suspicions. Or it just might bring us closer together if it is approached right.

Thank you for listening.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Faith O'Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Prepared by Faith O'Reilly

719-850-2473
Saguache Lodge @centurytel.net



Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

1 message

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 1:01 PM

Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov

To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

Wyoma Hansen has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: Wyoma Hansen

Email*: wymes@live.com

Comments: Please confirm receipt of this e-mail.

I am assuming that the draft strategic plan will not be adopted/voted on until after the January 26th comment period ends and that all comments are received and considered.

Please let me know if that is correct.

Thank you,

Wyoma Hansen

Submitted 2015-01-08 13:01:04

On:

IP 207.119.159.201

Address:



Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 1:05 PM

To: wymes@live.com

You are correct in your assumption. No decisions will be made until all comments are reviewed by the board.

—

Lyn Zimmer Lambert
Saguache County Co Administrator



Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Sat, Jan 10, 2015 at 12:32 PM

Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov

To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

J W burton has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: J W burton

Email*: Jahree1129@gmail.com

Comments: 11AM: I just got back from Saguache today Sat. the 10th of Jan. This was the day for the public comment according to the Crestone Eagle and the Draft Strategic plan that I received in advance that the public comment meeting would be Fri the 10th, but Fri was the 9th so there was an obvious error that NO ONE caught. I figured the commissioners were going to have a Sat meeting so those people that work for a living could attend. I noted how thoughtful it was of the commisssioners to hold an important meeting on a day when more people could attend.

As it turns out it was actually on Fri the 9th NOT the 10TH - so it was just another example of incompetence at the Saguache County level. I note that the web site has the correct day, time and date.

How many people showed up and what was the result of the meeting ?

Are there minutes of the meeting that may be downloaded or even better a transcript of the meeting - I assume someone recorded to meeting ?

Thanks for wasting my Sat morning - I should have called or looked at the web-site earlier, rather believing that you had the voters in mind by having a Sat meeting.

Submitted 2015-01-10 12:32:58

On:

IP 162.255.159.6

Address:



Lyn Zimmer Lambert <lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 7:46 PM

Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov

To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

Fred Bauder has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: Fred Bauder

Email*: fredbaud@fairpoint.net

Comments: A goal of reducing fine particle air pollution from blowing dust should be included. A

hint: make plowing while the wind is blowing an offense enforced as a nuisance.

Submitted 2015-01-12 19:46:11

On:

IP 66.243.197.173

Address:

Saguache County Commissioners

501 4th Street Saguache, CO 81149

January 6, 2015



Dear Saguache County Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as a concerned constituent. The manner in which you developed the Strategic Plan [SP] is my main concern. It seems to have been developed by a select few and some paid consultants with no input from any of the people you are sworn to represent. This is a worst case scenario and a textbook example of how to elicit negative responses.

The SP is probably purposely vague, but you must realize that vagueness demands conjecture on what is the 'true' meaning and what is the motivation of the words. You ask for public comment on a product that is so vague that my comments written marginally on my copy consists largely of question marks. The implementation plan, we are told, will answer the questions, but it is withheld, leaving us to try to comment on a SP that evokes nothing but question marks.

I really want to believe your motives are pure and that you wish to do something for the betterment of the citizens of Saguache County. In order to accomplish this I implore you to scrap the SP as it currently exists, knowing all the time, effort, and money already put into it will be for naught. Start over with a taskforce representing the citizenry of the County, and ask what is important to them. Let the public feel they have input to their future, not that "big brother" is going to, "take care of you". It will take time but if the people have a say in their future, you will avoid the furor that your current approach has caused.

There is talk of injunctions and other legal actions. We would hate to have precious resources squandered in that manner so please give serious thought to putting the SP on hold and listen to what the people want. Don't make the mistake of thinking you can decide what they want/need.

I hope that you will listen to reason and open a dialogue with the people you were elected to serve.

Thank you.

Respectfully,


J. Byron Williams

PO Box 303

Saguache CO 81149

January 4, 2015

Saguache County Board of County Commissioners

501 4th Street

Saguache CO 81149

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is from a very concerned taxpayer, property owner, and voter who resides in Saguache. The reason I am writing is to express my deep concern with the way in which you have developed the Strategic Plan you are proposing.

First, I demand that you reschedule the deadline for public comment, and the public meeting. As public officials voted into office by the citizens of Saguache County you must understand that developing a Plan such as this must be done with public input. We did not elect you to force things down our throats.

You have a truncated Public Comment Period that spans the period of the year when many of your constituents are away on holiday travel. If you truly want to avoid the appearance of being disinterested in public input you should extend the Public Comment Period for thirty [30] days.

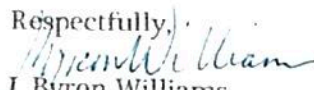
Further you have misrepresented the day when you will hear public comments. As of January 3, 2015 your official website still stated the Public Meeting will be held on January 10, 2015. Even if this is an unfortunate error, in order to avoid appearances of malfeasance, you must reschedule the meeting.

The cloak of secrecy you have shrouded the development of plan in, demands scrutiny. Citizens in this Country are given access to deliberations of their elected representatives. As far as I can determine this Strategic Plan was put together without any input from your constituents.

I trust you will accede to my demands, do the proper thing and extend the Public Comment Period and reschedule the Public Meeting.

Thank you.

Respectfully,


J. Byron Williams

PO Box 303,

Saguache CO, 81149



April Quintana <aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Priorities

1 message

Burrowing Owl Didgeridoo <2r9k2g@fairpoint.net>

Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 11:59 AM

To: administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov

Saguache County,

A "Meth Dog" is desperately needed in Saguache County, and a very efficient investment in our law

enforcement . The Pueblo and CSprings Sheriffs Depts have the necessary details, even loaning their Dogs to Chaffee Sheriff.

Saguache County taxpayers are suffering with no law enforcement of the "One-Bottle Meth" and its

poisonous 'lab' fumes, vulgarity, raucous ALL NIGHT noise , drugged-driving, lewd behavior, theft,

etc...all commonly resulting in fires and explosions.

In broad daylight, county taxpayers are witnessing Meth addicts urinating, vomiting, defecating,

copulating, and courting Saguache children. For weeks, Meth addicts don't sleep, eat, or bathe. And

then they can go 'unconscious' / hibernate for days/weeks.

Countywide now, 'Shake and Bake Meth' is bubbling away in clothing pockets, campsites, cars, dwellings, anywhere. It smells like a diaper pail with a dead skunk in it.

Cannabis is extremely pricey. But just 50 bucks of chemicals from the Merc and 1 pkg of Sudafed ,

makes \$2000 dollars of homemade Meth .

Thank You,

20-year-Saguache-Taxpayers

1/8/2015

edited version, please replace old one i sent - aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov - Saguache County Mail

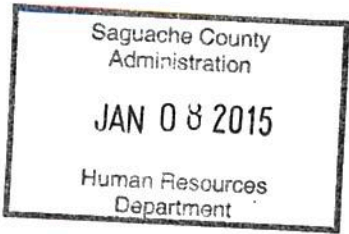
in Bombard <ronbombard@hotmail.com>
me

10:29 AM (15 minutes ago)

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From: ronbombard@hotmail.com
To: administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov
Subject: stragic plan
Date: Thu, 8 Jan 2015 10:04:13 -0700

o ever thought this up needs to have their head examined. we in this county cannot afford to even begin to think like this no matter what they have heard from other counties regarding a LUR in out of our county. and we certainly do not want the feds involved with our county by getting involved with some DOLA grant money. the people of this county should have this idea put to them a form of a vote, not decided by a few people that don't fully realize what they are getting the county into. voters here in saguache could possibly sue the commissioners if they do this without lers approval. as a residence of saguache and a developer in gunnison city limits i can assure you that saguache will regret setting up an LUR similar to the one in gunnison county. i have been d am involved in building houses, hotels, office bldgs, warehouse bldgs, mobile home parks, mini storage, & apartments. ALL in the city limits of gunnison, we cannot build or develop in nnison county because of the LUR and the strings attached to it. such as the linkage fee for building. as far as the two developments cited in your letter regarding gunnison counties public works ility and its new jail without raising tax's the answer is quite simple. the public works facility was required to move due to the airport over lay zone and was situated on donated land by the DOE, d was mostly funded by various federal agency's. the jail was out of federal compliance and the new jail was located on existing county property and also had federal monies involved. saguache jnty is primarily an agriculture area, with a small amount of tourism and fishing and hunting. we do not possess the basic's for anything else. nor will. its cost prohibitive. we do not have ything to offer industry or small businesses anything to attract them to this area. lets not run up the cost of living here chasing things we can't have. young folks living here leave, rather than the osite. looking for opportunities here that are non existence and will remain so. we are what we are. lets be happy with it. thank you for listening ron bombard, sandy bombard, dan mckenna, iggie mckenna, pete proschold, linda proschold.



April Quintana <aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

1 message

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 7:46 PM

Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov

To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

Fred Bauder has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: Fred Bauder

Email*: fredbaud@fairpoint.net

Comments: A goal of reducing fine particle air pollution from blowing dust should be included. A hint:
make plowing while the wind is blowing an offense enforced as a nuisance.

Submitted 2015-01-12 19:46:11

On:

IP 66.243.197.173

Address:



Town of
CRESTONE
Colorado

Saguache County
Administration

DEC 29 2014

PO Box 35
Saguache, Colorado 81149

Box 64 • Crestone, CO 81131 • Ph. 719-256-4313 • Fax 719-256-4742 • crestone@fairpoint.net • www.townofcrestone.org

December 23, 2014

Saguache County Commissioners
P.O. Box 326
Saguache, CO 81149

Dear Commissioners,

I have reviewed the Draft Saguache County Strategic Plan and would like to commend you for all the work that has gone into creating this document. As a person who is often involved in multi-year planning projects, I recognize this Draft Plan as a significant accomplishment.

I look forward to seeing more details and substance to the Plan as it evolves, and to Crestone being an active partner in solving the challenges that Saguache County is dealing with.

Regards,

Akia Tanara
Town Administrator

SG
Wm 1/8/15

January 8, 2015

Comments from the January 8, 2015 CBPC meeting

One of the Planning Commission members questioned why both the Planning Board, the SCPC and the CBPC were not included in or involved in the putting the Strategic Plan draft together, including their thoughts, suggestions etc.

Another Planning Commission member asked if the contents or portions of this Strategic Plan should be incorporated into the CBPC Master Plan once it was finished.

Another Planning Commission member questioned whether there was time to make comments

The four (4) members present did not at this meeting indicate that they had any comments at this time

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITORIAL

County can foster economic development without strategic plan

Dear Saguache County residents, I would like to comment on Saguache County's proposed "strategic plan." Generally it is accepted theory that any money spent in the community could be recycled through the community up to 10 times, benefiting local service providers and businesses. Are the developers of this plan and the recipients of grant money residents of the county, i.e. the Weidner's and also the administrators of SCSHSD?

The Great Outdoors is the most obvious asset we have here, and it should be promoted. Promoting tourism is a good thing. But I really don't like to read about "leveraging existing connections", and "building local collaboratives." This means nothing to me and mainly sounds like grant writers' hot air. The plan should have specifics in it, not just an outline of lofty, idealistic goals.

We already have organizations or people dedicated to planning and economic development as well as land use and administration. We should require more from the existing organizations and individuals tasked

with these duties that are paid for with taxpayer funds. Competition for county jobs might lead to increased productivity. Additionally the county should cease funding any operation that competes with existing businesses.

I don't know about you, but drones just don't seem to fit in and I do not want drones hovering overhead. What about local meat processing or a GMO-free animal feed processing plant? a local slaughterhouse and packing facility would create jobs in the short run and perhaps spawn businesses.

The county's basic function is to maintain and improve the infrastructure. Roads, bridges, schools, public buildings, public safety, communication, parks, and sanitation — stay on top of those duties and you will be doing a better job than most. Then economic growth will follow naturally.

Thomas D. McCracken, Saguache
Editors Note: Thomas McCracken's full letter can be viewed online at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>.

2014 top great things going on

This week I am counting down the best things that happened in the district, the district's most distinguished visitors, and the people who have moved on during 2014 who we'll miss the most.

In early June Center Schools was proud to announce that Mr. Luis Murillo had been offered, and had accepted, a contract to serve as our new principal of Skoglund Middle School. Mr. Murillo, formerly a counselor at Ortega Middle School in Alamosa, impressed the seven members of the hiring committee with his belief that with hard work and tenacity anyone can overcome any obstacle. The committee also felt that with his knowledge and experience surrounding migrant and English language learner students, and with his overall understanding of what good classroom instruction looks like and how to support it, he would fit right in to our school systems in Center. Though he is only one semester into his tenure in the district, Mr. Murillo has already won the respect of his students, staff, and our community members, and we look forward to him having a long and wonderful career benefiting our children.

In 2014 Center High School, Skoglund Middle School and Haskin Elementary Schools were recognized by as Colorado Education Initiative Healthy Schools Champions. Last spring Center Schools counselor Katrina Ruggles and middle-high secretary and health grant coordinator Marsha Felmlee accepted these awards on behalf of the Center School District at the Legacy Summit in Denver. 2014 marks the third straight year Center High School and Skoglund Middle School received this award, while Haskin Elementary got it for the first time!

In December Center High School principal Kevin Jones and Center High School Building Leadership Team representative Mark Jones made the trek to Denver to attend the Colorado Department of Education's annual awards ceremony to represent Center High School as it received a sixth straight Center of Educational Excellence award.

Last spring Center High School seniors were awarded roughly a quarter of a million dollars in scholarships to attend college or other postsecondary institutions. The bulk of these gifts were awarded to students from community partners Trinidad State Community College and Adams State University, though students also received dollars from the Colorado School of Mines, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado State University, the Skeff, McCormick, and Entz families, and the Kiwanis Club of Center.

We think the success our students are having securing so much college assistance can be traced to the expansion of our Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP) process. Center's ICAP process allows students to seriously begin thinking about what they will do in their life after high school, allowing each to explore their many career options, and encouraging each to learn more about the education and skills they will need to reach their goal.

Finally, each year the Colorado Department of Education, based on state achievement test results, graduation rates, and ACT scores, determines accreditation ratings for all 178 school districts in the state of Colorado. Accreditation categories a district can earn range from Turnaround, to Priority Improvement, Improvement, Accredited, and the state's highest district rating of Accredited With Distinction. This effort has not gone unnoticed around Colorado as Commissioner of Education Robert Hammond, in front of various legislative committees, has recently pointed out our efforts and Lieutenant Governor Joseph Garcia even gave us a shout out at the annual Colorado Association of School Boards annual convention in Colorado Springs in December.

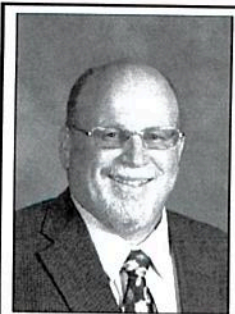
2014 most distinguished visitors to the District

In June 2014 Colorado State Migrant Education Director Tomás Mejía and Colorado

Department of Education Federal Programs Unit Executive Director Patrick Chapman were on campus to attend a State of Colorado Migrant Education meeting that was held in the Center Schools Pyle Community Library Community Room. Before the meeting Center Schools had the opportunity to take Mr. Mejía and Mr. Chapman on a walk to see how our summer school program addresses the needs of migrant students, and to see how the district uses student achievement data to guide the instructional decisions we make for our summer school students.

In September outgoing Colorado State Board of Education representative Elaine Gantz-Berman stopped by our district to visit with us about classroom instruction and student health and nutrition services. Elaine was on a quick tour of southern Colorado school districts and it was very exciting for us to have her stop in to see what we are doing.

In early November Colorado College professor Martha Slayden offered a class she called "Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the San Luis Valley. In this process her college level students were required



KEEPING OUR FOCUS
By GEORGE WEIDNER

to actually live in a rural community with English Language Learners, getting to deeply know the every day experiences of those students. I have no doubt the Colorado College students learned a lot from our kids, and our children greatly benefited from their presence in their lives. We truly enjoyed having them on campus!

Finally, on a Friday afternoon in March we had the extreme pleasure of taking Mr. Richard Deitrich, his wife Margaret, and his daughter Gay on a tour of our new school facilities. While here he visited the auditorium, the high school, the gymnasium, and our beautiful science wings. Richard and Margaret Deitrich graduated from Center High School in the late 1940's and early 1950's and are truly proud of their roots in our community. They are both well educated and have led very productive lives working in academia in the Denver area.

2014 people we'll miss the most

Kate Newmyer served the Center School District for seven years as our grade five through 12 instrumental music director; Lee Flood, who came to Center Schools as a Physical Education teacher during our last year in our old building, also serving as our varsity football coach and "chief of school spirit education, even becoming a bit of a Valley wide leader of PE teachers; Carrie Zimmerman, who served for one year as our middle-high assistant principal and then became Skoglund Middle School's first ever fully dedicated full-time principal; Daniel Newmyer, who guided numerous students to regional, state, national, and international science fair recognition, now an Einstein Fellow working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington D.C. and Diane Parker who taught in the Center School district for 36 years! Generations of CHS students learned how to write an effective five-paragraph essay, persuasive paper, and research project from her.

We truly miss all of you!

Letters to the editor

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity. All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Send letters to Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to valleypubs@amigo.net. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.



Log on to www.centerpostdispatch.com

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OPINION

GUEST EDITORIAL

Strategic plan over broad and lacking in substance

By MICHAEL COWAN

What has been posted on the county web site for comment as the "Strategic Plan" is not a plan. It is an outline for a plan. Plans have details and descriptions of intent. Partnerships are identified and expectations are supported by credible precedence based on facts and realistic comparisons. In a complete plan, full implementation procedure is revealed. You will not find any of that on the County web site.

The emphasis in the outline is on lowering the unemployment rate, lowering the poverty rate, raising per capita income and median household income and associated with those goals are some very optimistic and presumptuous predictions. Because there are no details, we are left to assume from the outline that the plan has its roots in regulatory environmentalism. Economic growth from commerce appears to be last on the priority list. Our commissioners have been repeatedly asked to make public the entire plan of action before any vote of the BOCC is taken to approve any plan and they have denied those requests.

True economic growth is a product of steady, growing commerce 12 months a year through private business where creative individuals flourish in a favorable, non-restrictive and properly managed business environment. Dependency on grants and taxpayer funded government programs to create jobs and develop the economy is superficial and unsustainable by nature and leads to economic stagnation as long as that is the main focus and private commerce takes a back seat or no seat at all. The concept of government stimulated economic development fails to recognize that private business, by its very nature, is self-sustainable as long as government does not impede its natural progression. Proportionate increases in government revenue are a natural byproduct of growth by private commerce when those businesses are free to conduct their business without being overregulated and overtaxed.

Unsubstantiated and extremely optimistic predictions posted in an outline on the county web site sound

good, but predictions do not bring economic prosperity and they do not accomplish goals. Workable plans do not need to be quickly drawn up, driven by expensive outside consulting firms and sprung on unsuspecting citizens without full disclosure and fully engaged participation from the people. Our commissioners had all the consultation they needed right here in Saguache county but apparently they had no faith in the people of our county to help them arrive at solutions to our economic challenges. Our citizens were not asked if we wanted a complete overhaul of our representative county government. Shouldn't changes this broad require a vote of the people rather than being decided by decree?

If our commissioners truly want to accomplish the goals mentioned above, they would aggressively solicit proven and substantive job producing industry into Saguache County, using price incentives from county owned or private property and temporary tax breaks to encourage relocation or new start-up from outside the county and state. Many viable businesses are looking to relocate because they have been strangled by policies that over-regulate in the name of "smart growth." The environmental implications attached to this plan will lead to this same kind of hostility and turn away any prospects in that regard.

Our commissioners must face the truth about economic growth and make private commerce a priority or the poverty rate will increase, and Saguache County will never pull itself out of this rut. If this plan is approved it will be an endless drain on the county budget and the taxpayers will foot the bill just as they always do with failed policies of redistribution. Further taxation always results in a reduction of per capita income not an increase. If we value our businesses and our property we might want to attend the meeting on January 10th and demand full disclosure.

The citizens of Saguache County deserve to know the full content of this plan. (Michael Cowan is a Saguache County business owner and has contributed to election integrity efforts in the county.)

Great things going on

Top student academic and athletic accomplishments of 2014

At Center Schools we do our best to educate the whole child. With an intense focus on outstanding classroom instruction, our primary goal is to ensure each student receives an excellent and personalized education experience. However, we realize that providing additional opportunities for our students to share their unique talents on a larger stage, academically or through extracurricular athletics, is an absolute must. We are truly proud of the amazing academic and athletic accomplishments our Center School District students achieved during 2014. Though there were many, these are the ones I think were had the most impact.

Academics come first

#8 CHSAAA "You Can Play" Video

In spring 2014 the Center High School video productions class entered the CHSAAA "You Can Play" short story competition and this effort received the most votes of all statewide projects! As a result the Center High School students who were involved in the production were invited to attend the 4A and 5A state championship basketball games where they were recognized at center court between contests when their video was shown to the entire crowd on the large screen video monitor.

#7 Daisy Garcia Earns State Science Fair honorable mention

In 2014 Center High School student Daisy Garcia earned an Honorable Mention in the senior division Environmental Science competition at the Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair for her research project on biodegradable plastics. Along the way she also earned a total of \$8,500 in scholarship funds!

#6 Gabriela Bucio given first-ever STARS Mentorlife award

This summer Center Schools' class of 2015 member Gabriela Bucio was recognized with a national award at the Friends First-STARs National Conference held in Denver. STARs is a national organization, including a chapter in Center, that focuses on providing students with tools to make positive life choices to lead them toward successful futures. Gabby was bestowed with the first ever STARS Mentorlife award!

#5 back-to-back KEY Club lieutenant governors

In the past year Center High School has been home to consecutive KEY Club Lieutenant Governors, first Aidee Valles in 2013-14 and now Genesis Villa in 2014-15. Each were chosen from among all regional KEY Club officers to guide the actions and involvement of KEY Club members and officers from a large swath of the state of Colorado. Thanks go to KEY Club sponsors Diane Parker, Kindra Rounds, and Hanna Hays

for enabling and supporting them to fulfill these important leadership developing duties.

#4 Carmen Ruggles and Daisy Garcia Qualify for ISWREP

In 2014 two of our Center High School scientists, Carmen Ruggles and Daisy Garcia qualified to compete in the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering Environment Project competition in Houston, Texas. Just earning a spot in the program is an outstanding achievement for any high school student. Additionally, Daisy Garcia was selected to represent the entire state of Colorado by carrying the flag at the 2014 opening ceremonies. In doing so she joined past Center High School students Nick Arellano, Morgan Hart, and Alexa Lobato.

#3 Louise Vazquez Named to CU Boulder Leadership Council, attends ASCAP

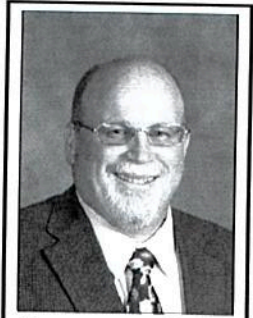
In April, Center High School senior and class of 2014 valedictorian Louise Vazquez was named a University of Colorado at Boulder President's Leadership Council scholar. Vazquez was also invited to present her scientific research project on wireless energy and resonance to the 2014 American Society of Composers and Poets (ASCAP) Expo in Los Angeles in late April.

#2 Nick Lobato named second straight Center High School Daniels Scholar

For the second straight year Center High School was the home of a Daniels Scholar, Nicholas Lobato. The Daniels Scholarship Program honors students who stand out for their character, leadership, and service to community. Daniels Scholars stand out because they demonstrate exceptional character, ethics, and integrity, a hardworking nature and drive to succeed, strong leadership qualities, a well-rounded personality, compassion for others, and a commitment to give back to their communities. Nick's cousin Alexa, a 2013 Daniels recipient, is currently attending Texas Christian University on a full ride scholarship.

#1 Science Fair State Champion and ASU Porter scholar Alanna Chacon

Center High School student and class of 2014 salutatorian Alanna Chacon represented the community of Center well at the 2014 Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair. Alanna was named state champion in the senior division category of chemistry. She also was accepted to the prestigious Porter Scholar program at Adams State University based on her commitment to scientific research, created to support students who are majoring in either mathematics or science and is awarded on the basis of need and their ongoing academic achievement. This award could total about \$10,000



KEEPING OUR FOCUS

By GEORGE WELSH

per year for four years, equaling a total award of about \$40,000 for Alanna's college career!

How about those Viking athletes!

#6 Ashlee Carter and Camille Ruggles, State Cross Country qualifiers

This fall Center High School cross country athletes Camille Ruggles and Ashlee Carter, coached by endurance athlete instructor extraordinaire Dennis Schoenfelder, ran well enough to qualify for slots in the Colorado State Cross Country meet. Both went on to qualify to run in the National Junior Olympics Cross Country meet in December in Kansas City.

#5 Baseball league and district Champs

In spring, 2014 the Center High School varsity baseball team won yet another Southern Peaks League championship under the guidance of legendary coach Lloyd Garcia. They went on to win the district tournament in convincing fashion before losing a close game in the state regional championship round.

#4 Maya Martinez fourth in State in discuss

In the spring Center High School senior Maya Martinez capped off four years of hard work and dedication by qualifying for and eventually placing fourth in the discuss event at the Colorado State Track and Field championship meet. Maya was coached by long-time field event guru Dale Beirger.

#3 Basketball regional qualifiers

In March, 2014, following a second place ranking in Southern Peaks League play, Center High School boys basketball team, coached by Mark Jones, advanced to the regional tournament, to win a game while there for the first time in more than 20 years! The team fell only five points short of qualifying to compete in the Colorado State Basketball Tournament.

#2 Natalia Cendejas State basketball skills champion

Though Center Schools has no official program, Haskin Elementary School fifth grader and perennial Center Recreation program participant

Please see FOCUS on Page 8A



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January 15, 2015

Saguache County Commissioners
P.O. Box 326
Saguache, CO 81149

Dear Commissioners,

The Crestone Board of Trustees has reviewed the Saguache County Draft Strategic Plan. The goals of the plan are ambitious and also very important. We are pleased to know that County Commissioners are engaged in long-range planning; the key strategies listed in the Plan are good and the goals are excellent. The Board of Trustees looks forward to working with County Commissioners to accomplish the goals, which will benefit all of Saguache County. Thank you for the depth and quality of work that went into completing the Draft Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Kairina Danforth
Mayor

Rec'd 1/26/2015
by Lyn Lambert

January 24, 2015

Saguache Colorado

Dear Saguache County Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen, a constituent of yours, and a voter and tax-paying resident of Saguache County. I am particularly concerned about the DRAFT Saguache County Strategic Plan.

In previous letters to you I have addressed the timing and secrecy concerns I have had, which have given the impression that you have been trying to slip something over on your constituents.

I prefer to think that your intentions were [are] pure. In this letter I will try to convey my feelings about the specific questions you have asked us to address.

First question, "Are Strategic Priorities clear and understandable?" If the priorities are Economic Growth and One County, One Community, Then yes, they are clear but of questionable merit. It is easy to quote Census data to measure economic growth but it is a small part of the economic picture. And the notion of forging a whole from the staunch that make up this county individuals make up this county is laughable. The Draft you have sent to us for comment has done more to unify the county than anything previously. The County has banded together to tell you this is the wrong way to approach our problems

You ask are there measurable results that need to be in the plan. Yes, but the nebulous product you have produced hardly lends itself to quantification. The product is inadequate to evaluate.

I might be willing to start over and help you approach the problems that the voters identify as being important. But whipping the virtually dead horse of this strategic plan is not productive and not how I want to spend my time.

Additional strategies you ask. How about tax incentives to attract potential employers? Or some other creative some strategy to enable businesses to come to the county, not just R&D but light industrial. Don't count on drones. Think bigger than them, but give something to encourage clean industry to locate here.

Getting a higher learning institution to serve the county would be great but it will require incentives that require legislation at your level.

Finally, under alternative energy, please give up on the idea of industrial solar and give focus to local photovoltaic technology. If you can encourage citizens who want to do the 'right thing', perhaps by example, then we can approach energy independence. It would be good to lobby the

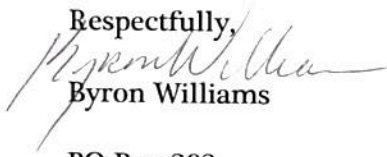
power company who has a monopoly here, to provide better incentives for 'rooftop solar' and 'solar gardens'. We don't want or need large scale industrial solar projects that defile the beauty of the Valley and require petrochemicals to operate.

I go back to an earlier theme, please consider scrapping the Strategic Plan. Then start over with input from the people who voted for you, not people from outside the county whose motives are questionable at least and whose product has been shown to be divisive.

There a lot of good people on this county, please listen to them.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron Williams", written over the printed name.

Byron Williams

PO Box 303

Saguache CO 81149

Rec'd 1/26/2015
Lynne Kuntz

Saguache County strategic plan and gardening (comments on the strategic plan)


We've been getting seed catalogs, looking through them, and talking about this years' garden. The strategic plan is like gardening, or at least planning for a garden. The strategic plan, as presented, is what we would like to see the garden be and a little on it's current condition. All who garden in Saguache County will tell you that soil health is the first key to a successful garden. I've seen some improvements in the soil health, but before you start, get your soil healthy. In other words get the county's finances in order. This past year, out of the blue, districts and municipalities got "surprise" money from the county. This is good, but leaves me to wonder. A good forensic audit would be the start to healthy soil. If the commissioners know what soil they have, they can start fresh. The audits the county has received, and what is needed, is like asking the person in the Walmart garden center and being told you might need some manure, but if you ask CSU extension, they tell you, your PH is 7.5 and peat moss needs to be added at a rate of..... Forget planning a successful garden till you get your soil healthy. The Town of Saguache uses Collice Blair, of Blair and associates. One of the top forensic auditors in the state. We have a healthy reserve, almost unheard of in this day and age. Most municipalities barely have a 3 month reserve. Some none at all or going under. The town has got it's soil health great and so we know we can plan a garden. I speak of the town, only to say, the county can have healthy soil, but it takes really knowing your soil. Only then can a successful garden be planned confidently.

To achieve a garden that yields a bountiful harvest, requires hard work, careful planning, and support (weeding, watering, sunshine, etc.). I've seen over the years, some of the support, more damaging to the garden, than helpful. Some support, taking up a hoe, but never removing a weed. Some support, never working the garden, but always at the fence saying look at our beautiful garden. I talk of ScSeed and the Tourism Council. ScSeed has a history of always being at the fence and saying look at "OUR" garden. Most likely if they have helped, it's likely they mixed horse manure in, introducing weed seed, arguing with the other gardeners, and then having done little else, and then taking a big share of the harvest. Please, stop funding this group. The Tourism Council is not that bad. The problem with them is you gave them money to buy good seed, but they spent it on outdated seeds, or seeds that don't grow in this climate. You need seed buyers on the Tourism Council, not scrap metal buyers.

Lastly, transparency is a much better approach. A secret garden is lovely, but it in the end benefits few. A community garden is at times chaotic, but in the end benefits many. Video access of the county commissioner meetings would allow greater citizen involvement. "One County, One Community". Make this more than just words.

Summery; I think what is outlined is worthy goals for the county. I don't disagree with the "Strategic Plan" at all. But as it stands it is much like me looking through the seed catalogs and dreaming. Last summer we had fresh salads and right now (in the middle of winter), enjoy canned, frozen, and dried fruits and veggies from our garden. It took getting our soil healthy, picking the right seeds, planting and cultivating, weeding and watering, etc.. Please be serious gardeners. The county's harvest depends on it.

Respectfully and Sincerely submitted,
Greg Terrell, Saguache

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Terrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Terrell".

Saguache County Board of Commissioner
501 4th Street
PO Box 100
Saguache, CO 81149



January 23, 2015

RE: Draft Strategic Plan Comments

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on the above draft. I do hope that you will consider all of the comments before you move forward with this project.

I appreciate what Gunnison County is able to do towards their planning. I would encourage you to not to follow so closely in Gunnison County's steps as they have a much broader tax base than Saguache County and are more capable of funding the projects that were listed your introduction letter. I doubt that our county will ever be able to compete with Blue Mesa let alone a ski area.

I feel it is inappropriate to suggest the county in the document as one county, one community. The different areas are very unique and should not be grouped as one community. I think if you polled the citizens of Saguache County that the majority would be opposed to this idea.

It is interesting in your list of goals that safety issues, the County Land Fill, and the different areas of agriculture are either not listed or a top priority.

Much of what is in the draft plan should be projects of the Saguache County Tourism Board or the Saguache County Planning Commission. Will the Strategic Plan replace the two boards?

On page 7 of the Draft, Additional Economic Growth Strategies
I Develop Infrastructure

- c.) I don't feel that this should be a county project
- e.) This should be a Planning Commission task. Does the BOCC feel that Saguache County needs to be zoned?
- f.) What is meant by develop County-owned land? Saguache County needs to be cautious and not compete with the local sector. Also, by the county purchasing additional property it takes away from the revenues of the property tax base.

II Grow the Workforce and III Small business development

- a.) There are partners currently in place to help the county citizens with business classes, small business plans, loans, marketing and benefits of enterprise zones. These classes have been advertised in the Saguache Crescent and Center Post Dispatch newspapers. The Saguache County Library, Saguache County Chamber of Commerce, ScSeed and the little store on Main Street in Saguache have classes of some type going on through out the year.

Page 8

This shows that a County Manager position will be established and to be hired by June 1, 2015. Interesting there is no other mention of this position in the Draft. At the work session that I attended it was mentioned that there would be two new positions, one being a manager and the other being a strategic planner. I would hope that these positions will be advertised along with a full list of requirements and that the BOCC does not just have this position done internally.

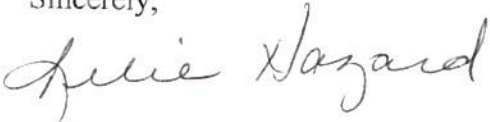
It also shows that by 2017 there will be a new Saguache County Logo in place. Did Saguache County not just go through this process a few years ago? Also, will this be mandatory for producers to do?

Page 9

- 1.) This should be a Tourism Board task
- 2.) This is a broad topic and should have been broken down and mostly should be taken on by Tourism.
 - a.) Before you encourage a 12 hour Penitence Mountain Bike Race, I would suggest that you heavily weigh the pros and cons that go along with this type of activity and also contact the local property owners in the area. Tying up a road or area for this amount of time could cause problems that would need to be addressed.
 - b.) Most of the items in this area including the Crestone Creative District should not be considered as an implementation tool. It should be a Tourism Board task. It is interesting that the Saguache County Commissioner's should find the need to take on this task. The BOCC can support most of these ideas by letters of support and other ways, but not by leading the projects.
- c.) It would be nice to have a Northern Access to the Great Sand Dunes through our county but again the pros and cons including costs would need to be explored.
- 3.) I would hope that in regards to the airports listed that the BOCC be careful not to be in competition with the public sector and publish any bids or job opportunities that may arise.
- 4.) Response is same as above

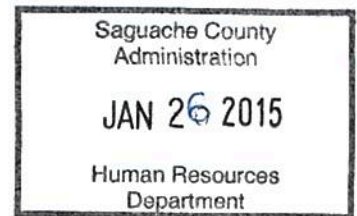
At the public hearing it was evident that the majority of the citizens felt that the Draft should be done away with. The cost of the draft plus the unknown cost of the implementation is very concerning to me. I too suggest that you do away with this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebie Hazard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rebie Hazard
14220 Hwy 114
Gunnison, CO 81230
719-580-2323

January 25, 2015



Saguache County Commissioners;

This is a letter to oppose the Strategic Plan for Saguache County. Most of the document is a duplication of the Master Plan.

1. Economic Growth: All of what is mentioned is available within the San Luis Valley already.
 - a. To have tourism and jobs, there needs to be a plan for where the services come from and if there is water available for the new business.
2. Alternative energy: need to have the ways to export energy that would be generated.
3. Saguache County **SHOULD NOT** be doing solar projects on County land when private landowners would like the benefit of a project. Government should not compete with private individuals in these projects.
4. Infrastructure: Allow individual businesses to open at locations that fit their needs for roads, transportation, electricity and water that may be needed for specific operations. Don't do areas!
5. Workforce: The Partnerships are already in place. I don't know how you get lazy people to work or people to work and learn to get a better job.
6. Small business development is being handled in Alamosa for the 6 counties.
7. One County, One Community: No, We are unique in many ways and should not be One Community. We need to work together as a County to the benefit of the Whole County.

We don't need a county manager, we have 2 co-administrators. Maybe they need some help, or restructured so they are more efficient. You can't rely on grants to run the county.

Saguache County is not going to have rapid growth and we don't need additional people as managers and planners. Very few Counties in Colorado have this in place and a few Towns and Cities.

The County Commissioners and Administrators should be taking care of our county needs and not relying on a planner or manager.

Please reject this plan and run Saguache County within resources we already have and without grants and requirements from people that do not understand the rural lifestyle and importance of long standing farms, ranches, established small business ventures and freedom of big government.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Nielsen". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anne Nielsen

(719) 655-2255

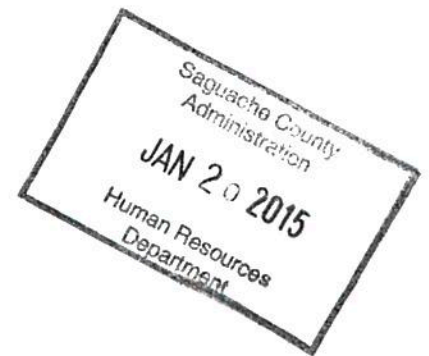
5th generation Saguache Family, Rancher and Small business owner.

FLYING X CATTLE COMPANY, INC.

30755 Highway 114

Saguache, CO. 81149

719-655-2255



January 26, 2015

Saguache County Board of Commissioners

501 4th Street

Saguache, CO. 81149

Dear Commissioners,

I do not feel that Saguache County needs a Strategic Plan, especially this Strategic Plan. With the exception of the County employee performance and evaluation plans, everything in this Strategic Plan is already covered in the Master Plan.

Be careful how you promote growth and tourism, you may degrade the qualities of Saguache County that the current residents like and other people come here to enjoy. More people can have an adverse effect on some parts of agriculture, making it harder for that business to succeed. Sometimes, the chosen solution to failed agricultural enterprises is subdivisions, and that is not what Saguache County needs more of. Leave wages and job growth up to the private sector, they have the most influence over those issues. The County can do their part by adopting policies that allow current and future business to succeed.

I would encourage you to abandon this Strategic Plan since it does not seem to benefit Saguache County or its residents.

Thank you,

Ed Nielsen



April Quintana <aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Strategic Plan Public Comment

1 message

no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov <no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Reply-To: no-reply@saguachecounty-co.gov

To: administration@saguachecounty-co.gov

Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 7:22 PM

Michael Hayes has a comment on the Strategic Plan,

They filled out the form and sent the following information:

Name*: Michael Hayes

Email*: mjhayes15@gmail.com

Comments: Excellent work. As a head of an organization in the middle of the strategic planning process, I can appreciate the amount of work that went into this document. I appreciate the structure of the strategic priority of economic growth supported by key strategies and other strategies. All of the goals seem actionable and, though they are a stretch, attainable. I can also appreciate the difficulty in getting a county infrastructure moving in this direction when this process has never been embarked upon before. However, with no clear direction, the infrastructure will serve itself and not the citizenry.

As you mentioned in the opening letter, I do have serious concerns about the sustainability of our water supply. It seems that a plan for our water must underly at least some portion of this work. I do not see this issue addressed in the strategic plan even though it is clearly addressed in the letter.

Submitted 2015-01-26 19:22:08

On:

IP 162.255.159.14

Address:



April Quintana <aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov>

FW: comments for the five year plan/follow up

1 message

Wendi Maez <wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Tue, Jan 27, 2015 at 9:31 AM

To: aquintana@saguachecounty-co.gov

Jason got this comment – please print and put in the file.

Wm

From: Jason Anderson [mailto:janderson@saguachecounty-co.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 11:26 AM

To: Wendi Maez

Subject: Fwd: comments for the five year plan/follow up

Could you add this to strategic plan comments

Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Thompson <thomdr@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, January 26, 2015

Subject: comments for the five year plan/follow up

To: Jason Anderson <janderson@saguachecounty-co.gov>

Hi Jason,

I hope you are well!

I did send you an email in December about the energy questions you had.

I thank you again for helping me as well.

I have had some additional health issues going on and will stop by as soon as I am able when you are having office hours in Crestone.

In the meantime, I have some thoughts on the five year plan and am submitting them to you today.

1.) Accessibility

Being new to Saguache county from what I have observed, accessibility to services, shopping for residents seems to be a need. Is there planning going on to invite businesses to establish and invest in the community to provide not just retail employment but other types (agribusiness, energy based, etc)? Is there a way to promote more inter-or

independence for Saguache as in having their own utility/electric company employed by Saguache residents? More localized services within the towns (trash, water and sanitation, transportation, medical) so there is not a monopoly? This would be a way to keep commerce local and more self-sustaining and accessible and provide healthy business competition. I think that if Saguache would make a priority to seek out companies then there could be ways for the youth to have some job outlook as well rather than have to leave. Highway 17 is a well traveled road by truckers and tourists as well and is a good location.

2) Affordability

Without more localized business and other related good and services options, the costs are higher. Many people are on fixed incomes and are low-income. Even though people may prefer the rural lifestyle or are retired, it is rather arduous to have to travel for more affordability or have to use e-commerce for better choices.

3) Accountability

The culture and mentality of Saguache people should be supported by example, training and oversight so as to protect those they interact with whether it be in social services, county commissioners, tax assessors, sheriff, public health, etc.

In order to have a spirit of trust and integrity, accountability must be foundational to the system, or it keeps regenerating old patterns of engagement. These old patterns must not be tolerated. The county can prosper when everyone does the right thing and are in positions of trust. Accountability should be upheld.

Thank you for reviewing my thoughts.

If you can, please keep my comments anonymous.

I appreciate it,

Blessings to you and yours,

Diane Thompson

719-256-4065

Information from ESET Endpoint Antivirus, version of virus signature database 11081 (20150127)

The message was checked by ESET Endpoint Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>